(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Government Hospitals

360. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to hand over the management of Government Hospitals to private sector or foreign multinational Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian in Pakistani Jails

361. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians in Pakistani jails at present;

(b) the number of women and children out of them;

(c) the number of persons who have been there for over a year; and

(d) the steps taken to repatriate them during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) According to available information, there are at present 1318 Indian civilian prisoners in the custody of Pakistan, including 38 Indian children lodged at the Edhi Welfare Centre, Karachi. Out of these, 1233 prisoners have been in Pakistani custody for more than one year.

In addition, 54 Indian defence personnel missing from the 1965 and 1971 wars are believed to be in custody in Pakistan.

The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has been repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan. The matter was also raised by the External Affairs Minister in his meeting with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on 18.12.1996. Our efforts continue.

Promotion of Sports

362. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay emphasis on the promotion and development of sports and games in Ninth Plan;

(b) whether there is a growing demand to enhance allocation for sports and games;

(c) if so, the funds proposed to be earmarked for the same during the Ninth-Plan; and

(d) the various schemes drawn up for the promotion of sports and games in the above plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT : (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Planning Commission have not yet indicated the allocations for sports and games during the Ninth Plan period.

(d) In addition to the existing schemes, various new schemes have been incorporated in the Ninth Plan proposals for the promotion of sports and games in the country and for achieving excellence at the international level. These include--scheme for training of elite sportspersons; scheme for Inter-school tournaments at various levels; a special scheme for the North-Eastern region, etc.

Mini Port at Kulpi (West Bengal)

363. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Industries Development Corporation and Mukunda Group of Industries, have signed MOU to set up a Mini Port at Kulpi, in South 24 Parganas, in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the project report has since been produced by Mukunda Group of Industries and submitted to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) It is learnt that such an MOU has been signed.

(b) The State Government of West Bengal forwarded a copy of the techno-economic feasibility study prepared by Bengal Port Limited, through M/s. Howe India Private Limited in connection with seeking Central Government clearance for the proposed port location. Subsequently, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) engaged Indian Ports Association (IPA) for appraisal of Bengal Port Limited's proposal on Development of Port & Related Facilities and Industrial Complex at Kulpi.